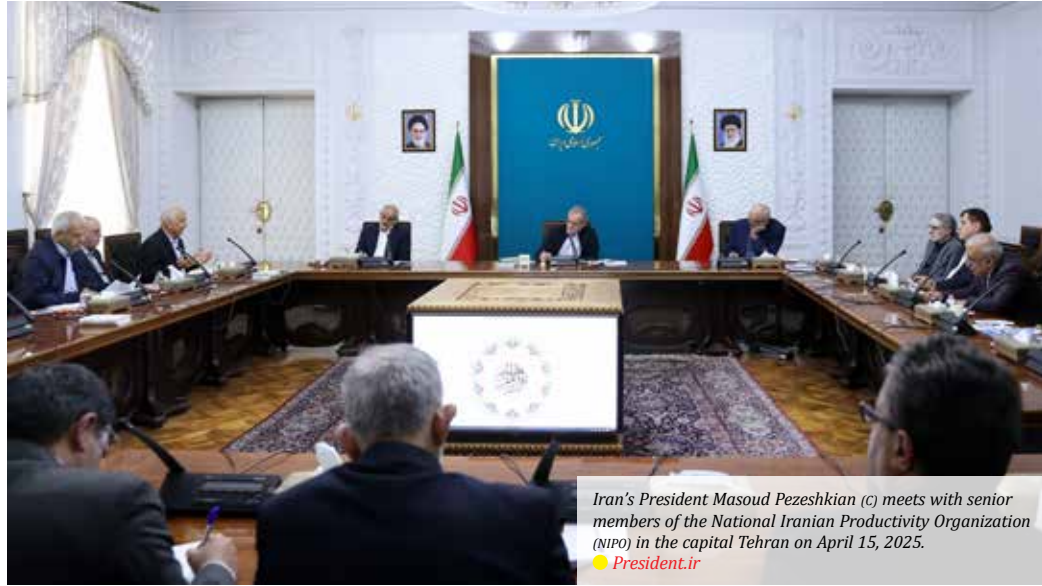


Pezeshkian highlights 'smart' tackling of energy shortages



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) meets with senior members of the National Iranian Productivity Organization (NIPO) in the capital Tehran on April 15, 2025.
● President.ir

Economy Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said at a meeting with senior members of the National

Iranian Productivity Organization (NIPO) that the government strives to tackle shortages in energy and other sectors in a fully "smart and precise" manner.

Having listened to the organization members' views and suggestions regarding imbalances in various fields, Pezeshkian said many of the concerns about

improving national productivity are being pursued by his government, stressing, "Everything you mentioned is accepted by us, and for instance, in addressing shortages, we are simultaneously seeking to manage them in supply as well as in demand and consumption control." Underlining that since the beginning of his government's term last July, he has followed up on suggestions and opinions regarding the enhancement of productivity, and has discussed the matter with experts, the president said, "However, we have been cautious about making decisions based on each suggestion and implementing them, as we believe that we must identify and integrate the results and find potential side effects of various solutions and suggestions and make decisions for each topic based on the specifics of that region and environment before entering the implementa-

tion phase."

Pezeshkian said his government is seriously and intensively identifying problems and gathering data and specifics of various regions, adding, "Specialized task forces have been formed, and by categorizing regions based on environmental specifications, we are collecting and providing the necessary managerial tools and authority to address the issues of each region." Emphasizing that the executive solutions are being drafted according to regional conditions, he said, "The pace of implementing the solutions will also be adjusted according to the collected data in order to minimize potential repercussions and achieve the highest and most effective results. Accordingly, we have seriously sought the participation of universities and scientific centers in each region, which have a more accurate understanding of their en-

vironment. On the other hand, we have tried to consider the shares and interests of various social and public sectors, from social classes to various associations, to engage their participation in implementing the programs."

Pezeshkian pointed out that, "We will strive to manage imbalances in a completely smart and precise manner," stressing, "In this regard, you as experts and concerned individuals about the important issue of productivity can greatly assist the government, as the more accurate our data and information are, the better solutions will be designed and interventions regarding shortages will be more effective."

Pezeshkian also called for the establishment of a headquarters to enhance collaboration and consultation between the government and the NIPO in a more organized manner.

Armenia demands boost to \$3b in bilateral trade with Iran

Economy Desk

The Armenian ambassador to Iran expressed regret that the economic relations between the two countries do not match the high level of their political ties, calling for the enhancement of trade level to three billion dollars through joint and active cooperation from both sides.

Grigor Hakobyan said in a meeting with Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, that relations with Tehran are a priority for the Armenian government, adding, "Developing bilateral relations in all economic, political, and cultural fields is of great importance to the government and people of Armenia." Expressing regret that the economic relations between the two countries do not correspond to the high level of their political relations, Hakobyan said, "We do not impose any limitations on deepening and developing relations. We need joint cooperation to first achieve the goal of one billion dollars and then aim for three billion dollars in the volume of bilateral

trade; of course, this requires more active relations between the chambers of the two countries."

The ambassador emphasized the importance of sending and receiving business delegations in developing relations between the two countries, saying, "There are many opportunities for investment and joint investments in Armenia, and the Embassy is ready for the necessary cooperation in this area to familiarize Iranian traders with these opportunities." Hakobyan said the private sector plays a decisive role in developing the economic relations of the two countries, adding that, "Together with the chambers of commerce of both countries, we must define common mechanisms to solve the issues and problems of trade between Iran and Armenia."

Pointing to the importance of developing tourism between the two countries, the diplomat said, "Iran's presence in Eurasia as an observer member and the initiation of free trade with the countries of the union is a good opportunity for developing cooperation. By making joint invest-

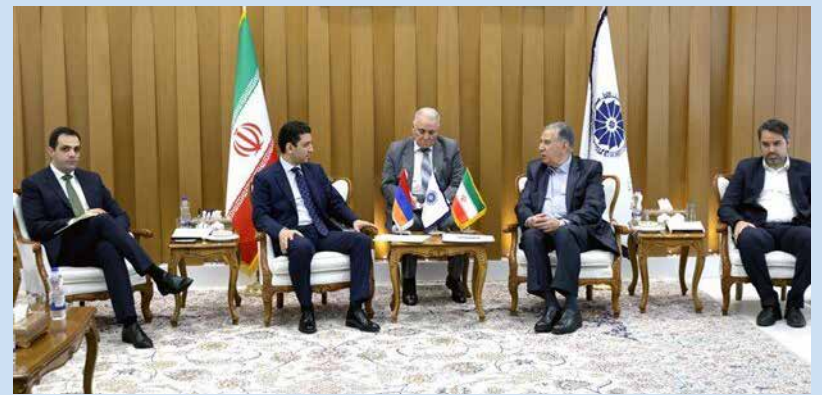
ments, we can export joint productions to the Eurasian region."

Hassanzadeh, for his part, said Iran's capacities for collaboration with Armenia are significant, and its pivotal position in Eurasia and the cultural and social ties between the two countries have made Armenia an important partner for Tehran.

"The Iran Chamber of Commerce is ready to take any action toward developing collaborations," Hassanzadeh said. "We are interested in dispatching and hosting business delegations, and this year we have plans to send a delegation to Armenia."

The chamber head stressed that Iran's private sector is particularly ready to export technical and engineering services and participate in investment in Armenia's civil engineering projects. He also said the medical, therapeutic, and pharmaceutical fields are among other advantages that can serve as a core for good collaboration between the two countries.

"The private sector in Iran has good capabilities in the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, automotive



Armenian Ambassador to Iran Grigor Hakobyan (2nd L) meets with Samad Hassanzadeh (2nd R), the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, in the capital Tehran on April 15, 2025.
● IRNA

manufacturing, food industries, and building materials, and it can offer products that meet high global standards," Hassanzadeh added.

Referring to Iran's high capacities in tourism and health tourism, Hassanzadeh said, "In the tourism sector, we request more support from Armenia and facilitation of matters related to Iranian tourists by this country."

He mentioned the Iran Expo 2025, scheduled to be held from April 28, and officially invited the Armenian

ambassador to attend the exhibition, stressing, "This exhibition will showcase Iran's production and export capabilities, and many ambassadors and business delegations from around the world will visit it."

Russian merchants invited to actively partake in Iran Expo 2025

Economy Desk

Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali invited Russian companies on Monday to actively participate in Iran Expo 2025, the country's largest trade and export showcase taking place between April 28 and May 2 at the Tehran International Exhibition Center. The invitation was made during a meeting with Sergey Katyrin, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, as the two sides underlined the importance of expanding trade cooperation and exchanging business delegations under the framework of the Iran-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement.

Praising trade ties between Tehran and Moscow as growing, Jalali called for the full implementation of the free trade deal, which was signed in January 2024 in St. Petersburg and will come into effect on May 15, 2025, following ratification by all member states.

The agreement covers 87 percent of traded goods between Iran and the five member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, granting them customs exemptions.

Calling for strong participation from Russian companies and economic stakeholders at Iran Expo 2025, Jalali also announced an upcoming visit to Moscow by a high-level Iranian trade delegation, led by the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.

Katyrin, for his part, welcomed the Iranian delegation's upcoming visit and said Russia's Chamber of Commerce was ready to host its Iranian counterpart.

Urging boost in bilateral economic ties between Moscow and Tehran, Katyrin also encouraged greater participation by Iranian and Russian companies in each other's trade exhibitions.

The Export Capabilities Exhibition, simply known as Iran Expo, is a platform to bring manufacturers,



Sergey Katyrin Kazem Jalali

exporters, and investors together and provide foreign visitors with a comprehensive view of the country's export capabilities with the ultimate goal of boosting non-oil exports.

The exhibition this year is being held while indirect talks between Iran and the US have raised hopes of an improvement in trade with the Islamic Republic. Thus, the number of participants is expected to be significantly higher compared to previous years. Last year's exhibition featured more than 700 knowledge-based companies, presenting some 1,500 products and a unique opportunity to expand scientific diplomacy with world countries.

Tehran, Ankara to establish joint free trade zone

Economy Desk

The secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones said the Islamic Republic is moving forward with plans to establish joint free trade zones with neighboring countries, with Turkey being the top priority, as part of a broader strategy to attract investment and boost regional economic integration. Speaking at a high-level meeting with deputy ministers and managing directors of Iran's Free Trade Zones (FTZs), Reza Masrour announced that detailed studies and follow-up efforts are underway to create joint economic zones with Turkey, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. Underlining the importance of forming a joint free zone with Turkey and calling for the establishment of an ac-

tive Iran-Turkey working group to accelerate the initiative, Masrour added that a key meeting with Turkish investors and representatives from Turkey's FTZs is scheduled for July in one of Iran's own free zones.

The official called on the heads of each FTZ to be directly involved in task forces and ensure that tangible outcomes are achieved within six months. He also stressed that the overall investment climate in the free zones must improve significantly, with incentives for investors being approved and implemented without delay.

"Investment zones were created specifically to attract capital," Masrour said. "What has been done in the past must now be followed by a visible leap forward." He also stressed that the success of FTZs depends on

the support of local communities, saying, "In regions where the local population is more actively present, their satisfaction is crucial. Investment projects must be transparent and clearly communicated to ensure local backing."

Masrour urged zone managers to develop serious plans to attract knowledge-based companies, which he described as the "engine of production," adding, the zones are expected to provide tailored incentives and streamlined licensing processes to facilitate this. Turkey, as Iran's western neighbor and a major regional power, plays a strategic role in Iran's trade plans, especially amid growing pressure on Iran's economy due to illegal Western sanctions and limited access to global financial systems.